REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Claims 1-8 and 10-20 remain pending in the present application.

This application is under final rejection. Applicant has presented arguments hereinbelow that Applicant believes should render the claims allowable. In the event, however, that the Examiner is not persuaded by Applicant's arguments, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the remarks to clarify issues upon appeal.

For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC § 102(e)

In the Office Action, the Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 1-8 and 10-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Winston. In response to Applicant's previous remarks, the Examiner states:

> **Applicant acknowledges that in one of the embodiments of Winston teaches line 311 as being a single line signal connecting to connecting to [sic] each slot connector as discloses [sic] in figure 3. Line 311 sends detection signals to the module detection unit 310 accordingly based on the conditions of the slot connectors (column 4 lines 55-60). For this reason, Line 311 is a single line signal sending detection signal states to the module detection unit 310. This teaching is equivalent to what is claimed.**

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection and respectfully submits that the Examiner misinterpreted Applicant's previous remarks.

In Applicant's previous response to the rejections, Applicant made no acknowledgment or admission that in one embodiment Winston teaches line 311 as being a single line signal.

Rather, what Applicant pointed out was that the teaching of Winston specifically discloses "a plurality of module detection connections" illustrated by the line 311 in Figure 3 (col. 4, lines 57-60). Applicant further respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to Winston's Figure 6 which illustrates the module detection unit 310 and to its accompanying description in col. 7, lines 38-64. In this section of col. 7, Winston discloses that "the module detection unit 310 is connected to the first slot connector 103 and the second slot connector 106 via the module detection connections 311." (emphasis added) Winston further describes the plurality of module detection connections 311 shown in Figure 6 by teaching in lines 44-64 of col. 7:

> The module detection connections 311 include a first module detection connection 620 that connects the first pull-up resistor 610 to the first slot connector 103. The first module detection connection 620 transmits a MODULE1_OCCUPATION signal to the first slot connector 103. ... The first slot connector 103 returns a low signal on the first module detection connection 620 when the first slot connector 103 is occupied and returns a high signal when it is vacant. The module detection connections 311 include a second module detection connection 621 that connects the second pull-up resistor 611 to the second slot connector 106. The second module detection connection 621 transmits MODULE2_OCCUPATION signal to the second slot connector 106. ... The second slot connector 106 returns a low signal on the second module detection connection 621 when the second slot connector 106 is occupied and returns a high signal when it is vacant.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Winston clearly teaches the use of a plurality of connection lines with a separate connection signal line for each slot connector. Each connection line transmits a separate high or low signal to indicate whether the slot to which it is connected is vacant or occupied. Thus, each of the plurality of signal lines is taught as being capable of indicating only two states for its corresponding socket. Applicant respectfully submits that such use of a plurality of connection signal lines not only fails to teach or suggest the recited invention but teaches away from Applicant's recited invention.

As recited in the independent claims 1, 10, and 17 of the present invention, a single general purpose input/output (GPIO) mechanism is utilized with a socket on a computer system, and detection of at least three separate conditions of the socket occurs based on a single signal line between the GPIO mechanism and the socket. Claim 1 further recites that detected changes in signal states on the single signal line between the GPIO mechanism and the socket determine whether a first card, a second card, or no card is installed in the socket. This ability to detect at least three states on a single signal line in the present invention increases the control information available from the GPIO mechanism. Applicant fails to see how the use of a plurality of connection signal lines with a separate connection signal line for each slot connector to indicate only two states of the slot connector, as taught in Winston, anticipates or even remotely suggests the recited utilization of a single signal line for determining three separate conditions/occupancy states of a socket. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 10, and 17 are allowable over the cited art. Further, claims 2-8, 11-16, and 18-20 depend from one of the independent claims. Thus, these dependent claims include the features of the independent claims that are believed to be allowable over the cited art, while adding further features. Therefore, claims 2-8, 11-16, and 18-20 are also respectfully submitted as allowable over the cited art for at least those reasons stated hereinabove.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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